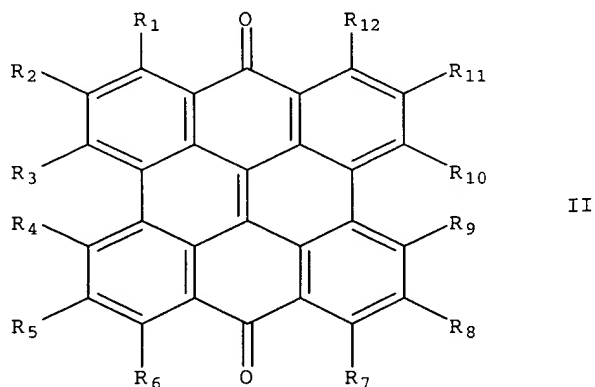


In the claims:

Please cancel claim 25.

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating a health disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, ~~diabetes mellitus~~, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease and preterm labor in an animal suffering from said disorder, the method comprising administering an effective amount of an active agent to said animal, wherein said active agent consists of an at least one extract of *Hypericum perforatum*, and wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is the only active agent administered according to the method.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hypericin derivative is a compound of formula II



wherein

R₁ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₂ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₃ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR

R₄ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH, or COOR

R₅ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₆ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₇ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₈ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₉ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₁₀ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₁₁ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₁₂ is H, OH, OR or OCOR; and

R is an optionally substituted C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded

(A) is a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, and R₉ and R₁₀ are methyl;

(B) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, and R₃ and R₄ are methyl;

(C) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₉ is methyl, and R₁₀ is CH₂OH;

(D) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈

and R₁₁ are H, R₉ is CH₂OH and R₁₀ is methyl;

(E) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₃ is methyl, and R₄ is CH₂OH; and

(F) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₃ is CH₂OH and R₄ is methyl.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the health disorder treatable with T-type calcium channel blockers is depression, chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischaemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabete mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, migraine headache, brain aging, a neurodegenerative disease or preterm labor.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said *Hypericum* constituent is hypericin, pseudohypericin, hyperforin, ashhyperforin, quercetin, quercitrin, isoquercitrin, hyperoside, rutin, amentoflavone or hyperin.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R is a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group, optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, acyloxy, carboxy, akoxycarbonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro or phenyl group or fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein

R_1 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_2 is H or R;

R_3 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_4 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_5 is H or R;

R_6 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_7 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_8 is H or R;

R_9 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_{10} is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_{11} is H or R;

R_{12} is H, OH, OR or OCOR; and

R is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl group.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein R is an optionally substituted methyl or ethyl group.

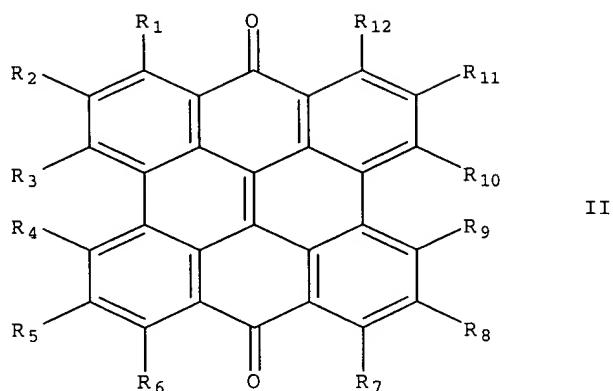
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said animal is a human.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said active agent is a *Hypericum* extract.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount is about 0.05 mg to 500 mg per kg body weight of said animal.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said active agent is hypericin.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said effective amount is about 0.0015 mg to 15 mg per kg body weight of said animal.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to said animal an additional extract of ~~active agent as described in~~ claim 1.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein one of the active agents administered is hypericin.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein another of the active agents administered is pseudohypericin.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein another of the active agents administered is hyperforin.
17. (Original) The method use of claim 15, further comprising administering hyperforin

to said animal.

18. (Original) A compound of formula II,



wherein

R₁ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₂ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₃ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₄ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₅ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₆ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₇ is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R₈ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₉ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₁₀ is H, R, OH, OR, OCOR, CH₂OH, CH₂OR, CH₂OCOR, COOH or COOR;

R₁₁ is H, R, F, Cl, Br, I or SO₃H;

R₁₂ is H, OH, OR or OCOR; and

R is an optionally substituted C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded

(A) is a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, and R₉ and R₁₀ are methyl;

(B) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, and R₃ and R₄ are methyl;

(C) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₉ is methyl, and R₁₀ is CH₂OH;

(D) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₃, R₄, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₉ is CH₂OH and R₁₀ is methyl;

(E) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₃ is methyl, and R₄ is CH₂OH;

(F) a compound of formula II, wherein R₁, R₉, R₁₀, R₆, R₇ and R₁₂ are OH, R₂, R₅, R₈ and R₁₁ are H, R₃ is CH₂OH and R₄ is methyl.

19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein R is a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group, optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, acyloxy, carboxy, akoxycarbonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro or phenyl group or fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom.

20. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein

R_1 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_2 is H or R;

R_3 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_4 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_5 is H or R;

R_6 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_7 is H, OH, OR or OCOR;

R_8 is H or R;

R_9 is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_{10} is H, OH, OR, OCOR, CH_2OH , CH_2OR or CH_2OCOR ;

R_{11} is H or R;

R_{12} is H, OH, OR or OCOR; and

R is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl group.

21. (Original) The compound of claim 20, wherein R is an optionally substituted methyl or ethyl group.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said extract of a species of the *Hypericum* genus other than *Hypericum perforatum* is an extract of a species selected

from the group consisting of *H. majus*, *H. formosum*, *H. calycinum*, *H.X moseranum*, *H. irazuense*, *H. reductum*, *H. patulum*, *H. mutilum*, *H. cruxandreae*, *H. hypericoides*, *H. densiflorum*, *H. prolificum*, *H. frondosum*, *H. cumilicola*, *H. anagalloides*, *H. androsaemum*, *H. tetrapterum*, *H. hirsutum*, *H. olympicum*, *H. hyssopifolium*, *H. elongatum* and *H. erratum*.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is a methanol or ethanol extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal in need of such treatment is a human.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the health disorder is chronic heart failure.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is chronic heart failure.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is congestive heart

failure.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is ischemic condition.
30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is arrhythmia.
31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is angina pectoris.
32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hypertension.
33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hypoinsulinemia.
34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hyperinsulinemia.
35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hyperaldosteronemia.
36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is epilepsy.
37. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is a neurogenerative disease.

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is preterm labor.
39. (New) A method of inhibiting T-type calcium current in cells in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such inhibition a composition comprising an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefore.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said animal suffers from chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabetes mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease or preterm labor.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said animal is a human.
42. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein one or more components of said extract other than hypericin contribute to the inhibition of the T-cell calcium current.
43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said composition consists essentially of an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.
44. (New) A method for treating a health disorder in which T-type calcium current is

implicated,

wherein the health disorder is chronic hear failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhymia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabetes mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurogenerative disease or preterm labor,

the method comprising

inhibiting the T-type calcium current in the cells of an animal having such a health disorder by administering a T-type calcium current inhibiting amount of Hypericum perforatum.